

## Minutes from the Parks and Green Spaces Meeting

On Monday, March 23, 2015 at 2:00 pm

At the Village Hall

Present: Susie Eig, Judy Elliott, Susan Kilborn, Margot Kingston, Polly Lawrence, Bliss Ryan and Susan Dixon

The new member of the committee, Susan Dixon, was welcomed.

The Committee had copies of the plans for Brookville Road Park to look over and discuss. However, the thrust of the discussion at the meeting was not about plans for the park Lila Fendrick has presented as much as it was the issue of maintenance of The Village's parks once the landscape plans are in place.

Bliss Ryan spoke about the Buffer. The top heavy pine tree had been a maintenance issue for over a year, but wasn't until March's high winds toppled it through the fence and into the parking lot serving the Giant grocery store that the remains of the tree were removed. The elephant in the room and the subject not discussed enough is maintenance of the plantings The Village installs.

Many of the Redbud trees that were planted in the buffer have died from lack of water and trucks damaging the branches. Pipes have been cut. Roots have been disturbed. Ivy and invasive weeds in the Buffer are an on-going problem. The encroachment of vehicles driven along the walkway causes damage as well.

The channels of approval for issues such as taking down the tree were not clear. We need to make maintenance less of a problem and have clarity on channels of approval.

Lila Fendrick's plans for Newlands Park are under way and should be completed by June 2015.

The changes for Brookville Road Park will not be installed until 2017. All parks are to be using native plants that will not need so much maintenance and will hold up better to the very hard use this park gets. That said, maintenance continues to be an issue that must be addressed if parks are to remain vital and healthy. The Parks and Green Spaces Committee would like to be involved in the plantings when they occur.

Several residents have indicated they want to donate a bench in honor of a member of the family recently passed away. The question was raised about where to place them in the park or right of way. Where possible, it is best to place seats close to a sidewalk so people can sit without walking in the grass but far enough off the sidewalk for people's feet not to be a trip hazard.

The Certified Weed Warrior Training program telephone number is (301) 495-2595. The Volunteer Registration System is under Volunteer Services (301) 495-2504. On May 20 there will be a Weed Warrior Training Program from 3:30 – 5:30 pm nearby. Please call for specific directions to the training.

If residents of Chevy Chase Village were to become Weed Warriors, that might alleviate some of the work of removing ivy and other invasives.

Respectively Submitted,

Judy Elliott and Susan Kilborn